Trustees to discuss tuition at meeting

Members of the WMU Board of Trustees will meet at 11:15 a.m. Wednesday, June 12, in 157-159 Bernhard Center. They will consider tuition for both on-campus courses and those offered at regional locations and online through Extended University Programs. Other agenda items include the 2013-14 general fund budget, promotion and tenure recommendations, and personnel, gifts and grants reports.

Everyone Counts applications due soon

Application packets for the 2013-14 Everyone Counts Faculty and Professional Learning Community program are being accepted through Friday, June 21. The theme for the year is race and racism. Visit wmich.edu/facdev and click on “Everyone Counts” for details and the application form. Direct questions to Tierra L. Marshall at (269) 387-6324.

Photo session slated for employees

Faculty and staff are encouraged to have an official University photo taken between 9:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Friday, June 7, in Walwood Hall's Heining Emeriti Lounge. Employees may have electronic copies for personal use at no charge. Contact Sue Beougher at sue.beougher@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8402 to confirm your session or receive your photo.

Military, veteran webinars scheduled

The military and veterans affairs office is hosting a brown-bag webinar series titled “Supporting Military and Veteran Students.” The series’ programs are being presented by the American Council on Education and can be viewed in 1353 Ellsworth Hall.

Chinese paper cutting workshop set

WMU’s Confucius Institute is offering a free workshop on the ancient art form of Chinese paper cutting from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. Thursday, June 13, in 2037 Brown Hall. The workshop will include a brief presentation about the history of paper cutting and a hands-on opportunity to create a window decoration. Registration is required at (269) 387-7874 or wcmi-confucius-IN@wmich.edu by providing your name and the number of people planning to attend.

Only one more Western News until fall

The final issue of Western News for the summer will be distributed Thursday, June 20. The deadline to submit items for that issue is 5 p.m. Friday, June 14. Visit the University's online news website, WMU News, at wmich.edu/news during the hiatus to stay up to date on campus events and information.

Construction projects to cause few disruptions

Various improvement projects will continue across campus this summer, but unlike last year, they will cause few disruptions.

The only one that is expected to interfere with normal campus life is the redesign of Fountain Plaza to add more green space, seating and shade and to make the area’s geometric shape less rigid.

Peter Strazdas, associate vice president for facilities management, says a landscape architect as well as a construction manager have been hired for the project, and construction fencing will be installed around the plaza after the June commencement.

“That part of campus will be disrupted until mid-August, but we’ll do as much as possible to minimize it,” Strazdas says. “By early June, we should have a meeting set up with building coordinators in the area and a detailed fencing map ready. And we’ll keep moving the fence in as more areas of the plaza are finished.”

The only other noteworthy disruptions this summer will come from paving work.

The approximate dates for this work are early July through early August for repaving Lot 46 between Sangren Hall and the Siebert Administration Building and mid-July to Aug. 1 for repaving curb work on West Michigan Avenue from in front of the Bernhard Center to the turnaround.

Among the most noticeable ongoing projects that the campus community will be able to keep tabs on this summer is Phase II of the Western View Apartments. The work will add two apartment buildings and a clubhouse to the popular new housing complex when they go online this fall.

The complex is designed for single students.

Emergency communication system is changing

WMU will switch to a new emergency alert system this month to increase both the speed and the number of communication options available to alert students and employees when a critical situation is unfolding on campus.

The new product, which is scheduled for activation Tuesday, June 11, is by Rave Mobile Safety. It employs preprogrammed text or voice messages that will deliver information either to a cell phone or a landline. The new system will deliver emergency information to any currently enrolled WMU student or active WMU employee.

The Rave system will operate under the University’s established WMU Alert name, notes Cam Vossen, emergency management.

Those who have already registered a preferred emergency number with WMU Alert will have that number automatically transferred to the new system, and this number will be the one used for emergency notifications.

Anyone who has registered the number of a text-capable phone in WMU Alert will receive messages about emergency situations in text format. Landlines or cell phones without text capability will continue to receive messages as voice alerts, but the person answering the phone will no longer need to trigger that message by speaking into the receiver.

Vossen says the University is urging all enrolled students and active employees to activate, update or verify the phone preference listed in their WMU Alert account by following this link.

Candidates for education dean to make presentations

Five finalists for the position of dean of the College of Education and Human Development will visit campus Friday, June 7-13, to meet with faculty, staff and students and make public presentations.

The candidates will make public presentations from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in 2017 Fetzer Center. Their names and current positions along with the days of their presentations are:

- Sandra Cooley Nichols, head of the University of Alabama Department of Special Education and Multiple Abilities, Friday, June 7;
- Page Smith, professor of education and associate dean for graduate studies and administration at the University of Texas at San Antonio, Monday, June 10;
- Sherwood Thompson, professor in the Eastern Kentucky University College of Education, Tuesday, June 11;
- Karin Jordan, professor and chair of the Department of Counseling at the University of Akron, Wednesday, June 12; and
- Ming Li, interim executive director of the Ohio University Center for International Studies, Thursday, June 13.
Web developer tapped for electronic communication role

Daniel E. Lobelle has been named director of electronic communication, with responsibility for content on the University’s website, overseeing his unit’s other areas of responsibility.

Lobelle, who has worked under contract with WMU since 2011, is the developer of a Drupal-based enterprisewide content management system for the University’s Web presence. Since mid-2012, websites across the University have been migrated into the system, and site managers, editors and contributors have been trained to manage their sites within the system. Lobelle will continue his CMS development role and oversee his unit’s other areas of responsibility.

A 2004 graduate of WMU’s computer science program, Lobelle is a professional with more than a decade of experience in information technology. His background includes positions as an IT specialist with the Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies (now the WMU School of Medicine), IT operations manager for engineering firm Carl Walker Inc., and senior network administrator for West Michigan Heart. He also has been a contractor, freelance Web developer and small business owner.

Electronic communication is part of the Office of University Relations, which also includes news services, media relations, creative services, design, marketing, publications and related areas.

Lobelle replaces Tyrone Durlach, who had served in the director’s role for a year before stepping down earlier this year. She continues to work part-time with WMU, focusing on special projects. Other members of the electronic communication team are Cara Barnes, assistant director of electronic communication, and Bradley Hornston, Web manager.

National story spotlights WMU’s contributions to the arts

WMU garnered the most attention in a national story published last month that takes an in-depth look at the contributions Michigan colleges and universities make to the arts.

The seven-page feature, “Arts Patrons for the 21st Century,” ran in the Chronicle of Higher Education’s May 10 issue. It can be found online at chronicle.com/article/Arts-Patrons-for-the-21st/139037. In that first-person piece, writer Lawrence Biemiller argues that higher education institutions keep the arts alive—and thriving—in an era of uncertain support.

Biemiller came to that conclusion after attending some of the 3,000 arts events WMU annually stages and by also attending several events at Michigan State University, the University of Michigan and several other schools on his tour.

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources website at wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.html. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.

Obituary

Editor’s Note: Visit wmich.edu/news/obituaries for full obituaries.

Betty J. Wellenkamp, a former second-class cook in theandard Center Dining Services, died May 25. She was 92. Visit williamsprofesional.com to leave an online condolence.

Disclosures
Broncoland video game released during student orientation

An online video game that uses 3D gaming technology to introduce current and prospective students to success skills they’ll need in college was unveiled June 3 during the first day of WMU’s 2013 new student orientation. The Broncoland Game is built on the same technology and 3D depiction of the WMU campus used in a groundbreaking online campus tour launched two years ago. That site—the Broncoland Tour—now attracts some 1,000 visitors a day.

The video game allows players to connect with the campus while teaching them essential skills that will help them be successful during their first year in college. Using the game, student-players attend classes, eat and work out, make friends, do homework, attend events, and race toward the end of a 10-week semester. Project Director Kevin Abbott, information technology, says the game is designed to allow students to use a format they enjoy to experience some common problems they might face as first-year students. As they play the game, they learn which campus services and offices are available to help them through such problems.

“We wanted to give students a tool that would help them avoid the common first-semester pitfalls and be ready to excel when they arrive on campus for classes,” Abbott says. Abbott and a team of more than a dozen students did the programming, art, visual and game design; interface design; and writing and audio production necessary to bring the game to life. Through the work on both the tour and the game, the team has developed a 3D campus that includes more than 50 buildings, roads, sidewalks and landscaping.

Information about the game can be viewed and the game can be played on a Web browser or downloaded for Mac or Windows computers at wmich.edu/broncoland.

The Broncoland Tour and Game publicly are products of the WMU Millennium Project, which recognizes that learning styles and educational goals are different for different generations of students. The project aims to develop more effective strategies for meeting the needs of millennial-generation students—those attending college in the 21st century.

For more information about the Broncoland tour or game, contact Project Director Kevin Abbott, who is also a member of the WMU 21st Century Student Committee, at kevin.abbott@wmich.edu or (269) 387-5125.

Nonbargaining groups hold elections, select new leadership for 2013-14

The University’s two nonbargaining groups have selected their leadership for 2013-14. Both the Professional Support Staff Organization and the Administration Professional Association represent a specific set of Staff Compensation System employees.

Professional Support Staff Organization

Officers for the new year’s Executive Board are: president, Kris Kent, maintenance services; vice president, Carol Morris-Mier, College of Education and Human Development; secretary, Pat Wilcox, payroll and disbursements; and treasurer, Nancy Johnson, Office of the Associate Vice President for Finance.

Serving on the board as members at large are: Kandeis-Toi Ross, human resources; Trace Sherburn, accounting; Bekki Spanjer, grants and contracts; Paige Warner, first-year experience; and Jan Watson, institutional research.

Administrative Professional Association

Officers for the new year’s Executive Board are: president, Faith Wicklund, Miller Auditorium; vice president, Chris Voss, University Recreation; treasurer, Lynda Hunt, development and alumni relations; corresponding secretary, Suzanne Beals-Duechy, development and alumni relations; and recording secretary, Laura Vine, business services.

Serving on the board as representatives of WMU’s academic, administrative, business and finance, or student affairs areas are: Liz Tevioletdale, Medieval Institute; Mario Gabbrecht, information technology; Randy Ott, Center for Academic Success Programs; Kitty Schieffer, College of Health and Human Services; Julie Nemire, music; Roxann “Roxie” Swan, College of Education and Human Development; Mary Ramlow, Evaluation Center; Michelle Loedeman, accounts receivable; Julie Lenczycy, Facilities Management; Nick Griffith, investments and endowment management; Ashley Les, student affairs; and Wayne Pushie, student affairs. Serving as a past president is Amy Seth, University Recreation.

People are needed to serve on the membership, events and professional development committees. If interested, contact Chris Voss at cristine.voss@wmich.edu or (269) 387-3772.

MORE MONEY FOR MSA RESEARCH—Members of an Ohio family returned May 30 for the second consecutive year to bring to campus money their community has raised to fund promising research on multiple system atrophy—MSA. Frank Cervone of Fairborn, Ohio, is dying from MSA, but he’s working to raise awareness of the rare neurological degenerative disease and make sure it will be defeated. He and his colleagues brought a check for $10,000—nearly triple last year’s amount—to fund research being done by Charles Ide, biological sciences; and his students. About $4,000 of the funds were raised through an annual benefit race organized by the Dayton Barefoot Runners. Club members Doug Brandt and Trissa King, accompanied Cervone and his wife to Kalamazoo to present the check to Ide.

Office seeks photo submissions

The Office of University Relations is looking for photos and stories to feature on the main WMU Facebook page.

We want to share details about employee and student awards and other accolades, as well as the innovative research, student-led initiatives and excellence and scholarship that are ever-present on campus.

Ideal posts include a brief message or description accompanied by a compelling, high-resolution photo. We are also looking for photos of things of beauty around campus—buildings, facilities, examples of school spirit, and outdoor scenery or landscape—to feature in posts or as cover photos. If you have a story or photo you would like to submit for consideration, email Cara Barnes at cara.barnes@wmich.edu or send a private message to the Facebook page at facebook.com/wmich.
On Campus with Tracey Lawie

“I’ve been a theatre buff ever since I was very young,” confesses Tracey Lawie, “so the best part of my job is being able to work in an industry I love.”

Lawie, director of marketing and development for Miller Auditorium, caught the theatre bug when she was in a sixth-grade musical. That led her to perform throughout high school as well as to volunteer at shows while a communication major at Olivet College and go on to earn a master’s degree in arts management from Wayne State University.

After grad school, Lawie worked at a Detroit theatre for a year before joining WMU’s theatre department in 1996 as director of arts management. She became Miller’s sales coordinator in 1999 and was promoted to her current post just three years later.

The job puts her in charge of public relations, media relations and all event marketing. She also assists with programming, writes grants, and oversees subscription and single-ticket sales, promotions, corporate sponsorships, and the Friends of Miller donor program.

A routine part of her job is getting cast members of popular shows to TV interviews—as early as 5:30 a.m.—and attending the promotional and meet-and-greet events she organizes, be they in the auditorium after shows or around town on weekends or holidays.

“We work really hard and long hours, but it’s always fun. You get to meet wonderful people, and there’s never a dull moment. People love working at Miller—they don’t leave,” Lawie says. “And the casts and crews love coming here. They talk about how welcoming people are here and what a beautiful theatre and campus and city we have.”

Among her biggest challenges are doing things well with a small staff and budget and finding ways to publicize Miller offerings on campus. As a reminder, she notes that employees get a 15 percent discount on shows Miller itself presents and the best way for employees to get news of special promotions and schedule adjustments is to join the E-club.

Lawie has taught a First-Year Seminar class for four years and has helped out with Everyone Counts. Off campus, she has been involved with the Burgess Run campaign and New York’s Broadway League, the Broadway theatre industry’s national trade association. She has a college-age daughter and lives in Kalamazoo with her husband, Wes, whom she married last year. The couple love to ride motorcycles and visit Grand Cayman Island. Lawie is working on getting certified in scuba diving and ran her first half marathon in May. Now, she is training to do her first triathlon in August.

Construction projects to cause few disruptions continued from page 1

without families who have achieved at least sophomore status. It forms a residential neighborhood with features such as a director and resident building managers, apartments for those with mobility challenges, and picnic areas and green space.

The existing four apartment buildings can house 330 students and were at full capacity nearly a year in advance of their fall 2011 opening. The two new apartment buildings will house an additional 174 students.

Meanwhile, activities continue on schedule for several other major projects already underway or recently announced.

• Sangren Hall—Early July should see the parking lot behind Sangren Hall finished. This project will result in a net gain in parking spaces available around Sangren and will include considerable landscaping to improve the area’s attractiveness and drainage.

In addition, contractors will finish installing solar panels on the building’s roof this week. Strazdas says information about how much electricity Sangren uses and how much of this usage is offset by the panels will be collected starting Monday, June 10, with the first set of readings revealed Monday, June 17. “By fall, monitors set up in the building’s lobby will display that information in real time,” he adds. “We’re expecting up to a quarter megawatt of renewable energy to be produced from these solar panels.”

• Zhang Legacy Collections Center—Construction on this new home for WMU Archives and Regional History Collections off of Oakland Drive is nearing completion. The unit is operating under reduced hours and will be closed to all walk-in research and instructional services beginning Aug. 1 to prepare for its move. The relocation period is expected to last until mid-October, and a formal dedication ceremony will be held in the fall.

• Medical school building—A structural steel topping ceremony will be held in late August. The event will take place in the facility, which is located at 300 Portage St. and is now formally the University’s W.E. Upjohn Campus. The project is on time and on budget for a soft move-in next summer.

• Making way for new residence halls—Biglow and Hookey Halls will officially close early this month. Abatement activities will take place during the summer months, and a site construction fence will wrap the buildings and parking lot in August. Demolition of the two halls will occur in the fall.

Emergency communication system is changing continued from page 1

Users may be charged by cell phone carriers to receive text messages or if a WMU Alert message is one that exceeds a monthly allotment of messages. So before registering a message preference, registrants may want to check their phone plans.

The Reverse 911 system will remain in place through the transition to the new Rave system. Additional details about the new system will be provided after June 11.

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